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Includes: Welcome note from the Director of the **Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre** and includes a link to the list of all articles in this issue.



New Series - Own Unincorporated Business Income by Regions

Includes: First release of two new products featuring **Persons with Main source of Income from Own Unincorporated Business** including sub-state level data.



Economy

Includes: Recent releases such as **Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits**, and **Regional Wage and Salary Earners**.



Population and People

Includes: Recent Census 2006 releases such as the **Census Social Atlas Series**, and **Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas**. Other releases include **Regional Population Growth, Australia**, and **Information Paper: Population Concepts**.



Industry

Includes: Recent releases such as the latest **Tourism Accommodation: Small Area Data**, and **Agricultural Census: 2005-06** data.



Environment and Energy

Includes: The recent release of **Water Use on Australian Farms, 2005-06** including for the first time data for the Murray Darling Basin, Drainage Divisions and National Resource Management Regions.



Other News and Contacts

Includes: Recent releases such as **Help for Local Government on the ABS website**, **State and Regional Indicators** for Victoria and Tasmania, information on the **NatStats08 Conference**, **About Us** and how to **Contact Us**.

In this issue

WHAT'S NEW IN REGIONAL STATISTICS

'What's New in Regional Statistics' is a biannual newsletter about regional and small area statistics. It includes topical articles and reviews of relevant ABS publications. 'What's New in Regional Statistics' highlights developments in statistics relevant to regions, including metropolitan, urban, non-urban and rural areas, and other information of likely interest to researchers, policy makers and other users of small area data.

Interested readers are invited to visit the [Regional Statistics theme page](#) on the ABS website for links to other related information.

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

Welcome from the Director



WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

WHAT'S NEW IN REGIONAL STATISTICS

Welcome to the third edition of the 'What's New in Regional Statistics' newsletter.

If you have read our previous newsletters, you will have noticed that this issue looks quite different! The new format includes a 'feature article' highlighting a key regional release in the last few months. There are also many other smaller articles, and we have grouped those for easy reading into the four topic headings that you would be familiar with on the ABS website (Economy, Population/People, Industry, Environment/Energy).

What's in this issue?

Our feature article is on a new series which uses personal income tax data from the Australian Taxation Office and was released on 27 March 2008. Read about [Persons with Main Source of Income from Own Unincorporated Business](#).

Other articles include 'Business Counts by Region' (in [Economy](#)), the latest 2006 Census data releases, 'Regional Population Growth' (both in [Population/People](#)), Agricultural Census data (in [Industry](#)), and 'Water Use on Australian Farms' (in [Environment/Energy](#)).

Under [Other News and Contacts](#) we have information about new help pages on our website for Local Government, the Northern Territory Government Statistical Regions and an update on the NatStats conference later this year. This page also includes a [list of all articles in this issue](#).

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative, and we welcome your feedback and comments.

Danny Zabrowarny

Director
Regional Statistics Branch

New series - Own Unincorporated Business Income by regions



NEW SERIES - OWN UNINCORPORATED BUSINESS INCOME BY REGIONS

A NEW REGIONAL SERIES

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A new regional series on persons whose main (or principal) source of income is from their own unincorporated business(es), has recently been released by the ABS. The data are for eight financial years, from 1996-97 to 2003-04. The ABS has produced this series in response to identified user demand for information about regional income.

This release comprises an Information Paper and detailed spreadsheets. For the Information Paper refer to: [Information Paper: Persons with Main Source of Income from Own Unincorporated Business, Experimental Estimates for Small Areas, Australia, 1996-97 to 2003-04](#) (cat. no. 6225.0) and for the spreadsheets refer to: [Persons with Main Source of Income from Own Unincorporated Business, Experimental Estimates for Small Areas - Data Cubes, 1996-97 to 2003-04](#) (cat. no. 6225.0.55.001).

Data available from this series

The data that are available from this series include the number of persons whose main source of income is from their own unincorporated business(es), and for those persons:

- income from their own unincorporated business
- total income from all sources
- average income from their own unincorporated business
- average total income from all sources, and
- the number of males and females for the years 2001-02 to 2003-04.

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Geographical areas covered

Data are available for the following types of regions:

- Local Government Areas (LGAs)
- Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)
- Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs)
- Statistical Divisions (SDs)

Totals are also included for each state/territory and for Australia.

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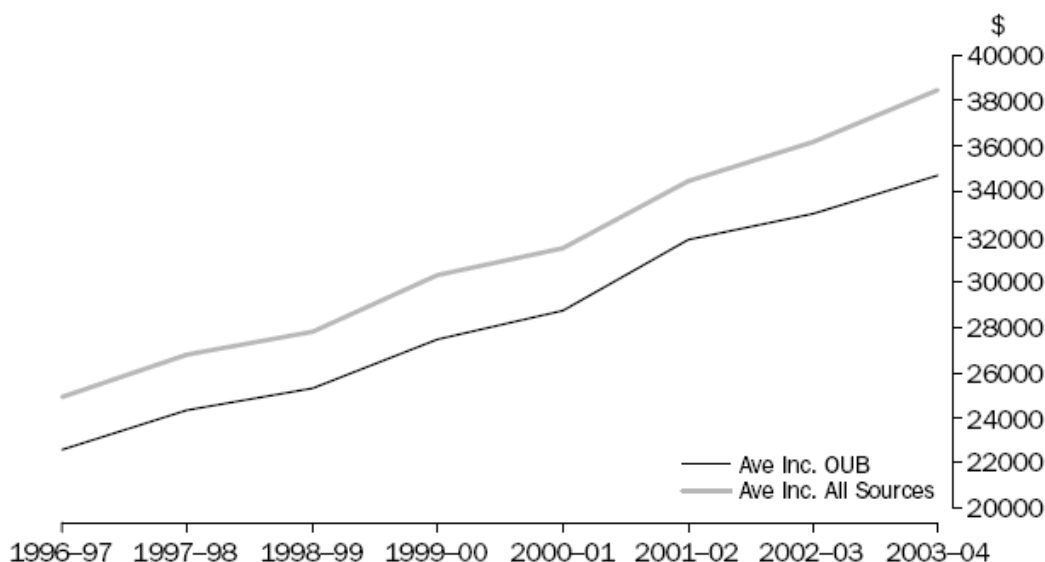
Key findings from the data

The following are some of the key findings contained in the [Information Paper](#), which also includes findings for Australia, the states and territories, across urban and rural Australia and for local government areas. If you are interested in a particular region or other characteristics not covered in the Information Paper, refer to the associated Excel spreadsheets.

Key findings for 'persons whose main source of income is from their own unincorporated business(es)' (PSIOUB) include:

- Total personal income earned by these persons from their unincorporated business(es) in 2003-04 was an average of \$34,697 per person. In comparison, the average total personal income of these people from all sources, i.e. taking into account income from other sources such as wages and salaries, investments, etc., was around 10.8% higher at \$38,455.
- Between 1996-97 and 2003-04, the average personal income from own unincorporated business(es) for this population increased by 53.5% or \$12,087. This represents an average annual increase of 6.3% per annum. Their average total personal income from all sources also increased over this period by 54.2% or \$13,522 in total, for an average annual increase of 6.4%.

Graph: Average personal income derived from Own Unincorporated Business and all sources, PSIOUB, Australia, 1996-97 to 2003-04.



Source: ATO Individual Income Tax Data

- In 2003-04, PSIOUB in the Local Government Area (LGA) of Mosman (in Sydney, New South Wales) had the highest average personal income derived from own unincorporated business(es) of all LGAs in Australia, at \$151,960, while the average for Australia was \$34,697.
- In 2003-04, there were five other LGAs where the average personal income (of PSIOUB) derived from their own unincorporated businesses was in excess of \$100,000. These areas were: Woollahra (New South Wales) with an average of \$134,843, followed by Cottesloe (Western Australia) with \$119,983, Nedlands (Western Australia) with \$117,654, Hunter's Hill (New South Wales) with \$110,073, and Ku-ring-gai (New South Wales) with an average of \$101,110.

LGAs with highest average Personal Income from Own Unincorporated Business (PSIOUB), Australia - 2003-04^{(a)(b)}

| Local Government Area | | Persons - Principle source of income derived from Own Unincorp. Business no. | Total personal income derived from Own Unincorp. Business \$m | Average personal income derived from Own Unincorp. Business \$ | Total personal income from all sources \$m |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--|---|--|--|
| State/Territory | LGA Name | | | | |
| NSW | Mosman (A) | 1,196 | 181.7 | 151,960 | 200.8 |
| NSW | Woollahra (A) | 2,832 | 381.9 | 134,843 | 444 |
| WA | Cottesloe (T) | 406 | 48.7 | 119,983 | 53.4 |
| WA | Nedlands (C) | 968 | 113.9 | 117,654 | 132.8 |
| NSW | Hunter's Hill (A) | 523 | 57.6 | 110,073 | 63.9 |
| NSW | Ku-ring-gai (A) | 4,137 | 418.3 | 101,110 | 464.4 |
| VIC | Stonnington (C) | 3,503 | 336.1 | 95,959 | 383.1 |
| WA | Claremont (T) | 393 | 35.8 | 91,145 | 40.6 |
| SA | Walkerville (M) | 314 | 28.1 | 89,533 | 31.1 |
| NSW | North Sydney (A) | 2,176 | 194.2 | 89,248 | 214.6 |
| Australia | | 904,769 | 31,392.7 | 34,697 | 34,793.2 |

(a) Excludes LGAs with less than 100 persons.

(b) LGA boundaries as at ASGC 2004.

Source: ATO Individual Income Tax Dataset

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Where this data came from

This series is based on Australian Taxation Office's Individual Income Tax Return data, and is part of the ABS' program to increase the range of regional data available to users of regional statistics, particularly through the use of administrative information from other government agencies. All data was provided to the ABS in aggregated form and confidentialised, and no information about individual taxpayers was released to the ABS.

Related releases

This new series is related to other previous ABS releases on regional sources of income.

- [The Experimental Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Taxation and Income Support Data, 1995-96 to 2000-01](#) (cat no. 6524.0), presented data for all persons receiving income from those sources and included own unincorporated business as one of the sources of income. This new release focuses on the sub-set of persons with income from own unincorporated business, that is, those whose main source of income is from their own unincorporated business.
- The [Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia](#) series (cat. no. 5673.0.55.001) focuses specifically on Wage and salary earners.

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Economy



ECONOMY

RECENT RELEASES

[Now Available: Business Counts by Region](#)

[Regional Wage and Salary Earners - Latest Data](#)

FORTHCOMING RELEASES

[Perspectives on Regional Australia: Wealth throughout Australia](#)

NOW AVAILABLE: BUSINESS COUNTS BY REGION

The [Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, June 2003 to June 2007](#) (cat. no. 8165.0), presents information on businesses in the Australian economy. This release is based on snapshots of actively trading businesses as at June each year. For the first time, information is also provided at the Statistical Local Area (SLA) level.

This release comprises a publication and data cubes that are in an Excel spreadsheet format. The publication's Summary of Findings contains useful information on Australian businesses including: entries, exits and survival counts and rates, main state business operated in, institutional sector, type of legal organisation, employment size and annual turnover. The Excel spreadsheets offer users access to more detailed cross-classified information and can be viewed by main state, single/multi state.

No individual businesses can be identified as the data presented have been confidentialised.

Some key findings

As at June 2007:

- There were 2.01 million actively trading businesses in Australia: 32% were Companies in Australia, 31% Sole Proprietors, 19% Partnerships and 18% Trusts.
- Of these, 839,938 (42%) were employing businesses and 1,171,832 (58%) were non-employing businesses.

- Most of the employing businesses (755,758) employed less than 20 employees. 527,445 of these had between 1 to 4 employees.
- Less than 1% of businesses (5,876) had 200 or more employees.
- Of the 1.87 million businesses operating in June 2003, 58% were still operating in June 2007.
- 25% (501,467) of businesses had a turnover between \$0 and \$50k, while 6% (121,557) of businesses had a turnover above \$2m per annum.

More key findings are available from the publication. If you are interested in a particular region or characteristic, refer to the data in the [Excel spreadsheets](#).

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REGIONAL WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS - LATEST DATA

On 4 April 2008, the latest Regional Wage and Salary data were released for the 2004-05 financial year. Comprising a series of tables in Excel spreadsheet format, users are able to access the data easily. Data are available on the various characteristics of wage and salary earners, such as their age, sex, occupation, wage and salary income and total income.

These data have been compiled from the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Individual Income Tax Returns for Persons aged 15 years and over, who submitted an individual income tax return and for whom wage and salary income was their principal (or main) source of income for the financial year. ATO provided the data in aggregated form, by Statistical Local Area.

Users can access regional data by various geographies including Local Government Areas (LGAs), Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) and Statistical Subdivisions in each state and territory of Australia.

Top 10 SLAs by Average Wage and Salary Income, 2004-05

| Statistical Local Areas | W&S Earners no. | Average W&S Income \$ | Median W&S Income \$ | Average Total Income \$ | Median Total Income \$ |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| RankingSLA | | | | | |
| 1 Mosman (A) | 10,904 | 95,887 | 51,544 | 110,035 | 55,375 |
| 2 Hunter's Hill (A) | 4,736 | 77,825 | 47,398 | 89,590 | 49,700 |
| 3 Woollahra (A) | 21,349 | 77,141 | 48,037 | 86,954 | 50,875 |
| 4 Ku-ring-gai (A) | 39,909 | 70,305 | 45,051 | 78,104 | 48,591 |
| 5 North Sydney (A) | 31,393 | 68,920 | 51,450 | 74,081 | 53,513 |
| 6 Lane Cove (A) | 14,264 | 66,841 | 48,471 | 72,567 | 50,471 |
| 7 Bayside (C) - Brighton | 14,273 | 66,006 | 44,263 | 75,908 | 47,908 |
| 8 Willoughby (C) | 27,544 | 63,902 | 45,452 | 68,839 | 47,527 |
| 9 Peppermint Grove (S) | 593 | 63,872 | 41,006 | 73,969 | 46,359 |
| 10 Leichhardt (A) | 25,055 | 63,826 | 51,223 | 67,226 | 52,825 |
| Australia | 8,045,667 | 40,585 | 35,352 | 42,635 | 36,497 |

Some key findings from the 2004-05 data include:

- In 2004-05, the SLA of Mosman (in NSW) had the highest average wage and salary income, with an average of \$95,887. This was more than double the Australian average wage and salary income, of \$40,585.
- After Mosman, the next five highest average wage and salary income SLAs were all located in New South Wales and were: Hunter's Hill (\$77,825), Woollahra (\$77,141), Ku-ring-gai (\$70,305), North Sydney (\$68,920) and Lane Cove (\$66,841).
- Of the ten SLAs across Australia with the highest average wage and salary incomes in 2004-05, eight were located in metropolitan New South Wales, one was located in metropolitan Victoria and one was located in metropolitan Western Australia.
- In 2004-05, Leichhardt (in NSW), joined the top 10 list, replacing Cottesloe (WA) in tenth position.

Finding the data you want

If you are interested in a particular region or some of the other characteristics already mentioned, refer to the data that are available in the Excel spreadsheets.

If you would like to compare data with earlier years, Wage and Salary data are available from 1995-96 onwards. Data for the years 1995-96 to 2000-01 are associated with ABS cat. no. 5673.0.55.001 and data for the years 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and now 2004-05 are associated with ABS cat. no. 5673.0.55.003. Refer [Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia - Data cubes](#) (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003) and [Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5673.0.55.001).

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FORTHCOMING RELEASES

Perspectives on Regional Australia: Wealth throughout Australia, 2005-06 (cat. no. 1380.0.55.004) is due for release in August 2008. This is a new publication and fourth in the series of reports analysing a range of topics with a particular focus on regional Australia. This publication will present data on wealth, in the form of assets and liabilities, across urban and rural areas of Australia.

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Population and people



POPULATION AND PEOPLE

MORE CENSUS 2006 DATA RELEASED

[Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas](#)

[Explore your City through the 2006 Census Social Atlas Series](#)

[Indigenous Geography Maps and Census Profiles](#)

[Working Population Profile](#)

[Mesh Blocks](#)

OTHER RECENT RELEASES

[Regional Population Growth](#)

[Population Concepts](#)

FORTHCOMING RELEASES

[Perspectives on Regional Australia: Population Turnover, 2006](#)

MORE CENSUS 2006 DATA RELEASED

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDEXES FOR AREAS

[Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas \(SEIFA\)](#) is a product developed especially for those interested in the assessment of the welfare of Australian communities. The ABS has developed four indexes to allow ranking

of regions/areas, providing a method of determining the level of social and economic well-being in each region.

Each of the four indexes summarises different aspects of the socio-economic conditions of people living in an area. They are each based on a different set of social and economic information from the 2006 Census. The indexes provide more general measures of socio-economic status than is given by measuring, for example, income or unemployment alone.

The indexes can be used to explore different aspects of socio-economic conditions by geographic areas. For each index, every geographic area in Australia is given a SEIFA number which shows how disadvantaged that area is compared with other areas in Australia. The SEIFA indexes are available in Microsoft Excel spreadsheet format.

The SEIFA indexes

The four indexes in SEIFA 2006 are:

- **Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage:** is derived from Census variables related to disadvantage, such as low income, low educational attainment, unemployment, and dwellings without motor vehicles.
- **Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage:** a continuum of advantage (high values) to disadvantage (low values) which is derived from Census variables related to both advantage and disadvantage, like households with low income and people with a tertiary education.
- **Index of Economic Resources:** focuses on Census variables like the income, housing expenditure and assets of households.
- **Index of Education and Occupation:** includes Census variables relating to the educational and occupational characteristics of communities, like the proportion of people with a higher qualification or those employed in a skilled occupation.

According to the [Information Paper: An Introduction to Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas \(SEIFA\), 2006](#) (cat. no. 2039.0), the concept of relative socio-economic disadvantage is neither simple, nor well defined. SEIFA uses a broad definition of relative socio-economic disadvantage in terms of people's access to material and social resources, and their ability to participate in society. While SEIFA represents an average of all people living in an area, SEIFA does not represent the individual situation of each person. Larger areas are more likely to have greater diversity of people and households.

Available Geographical Areas

Separate downloadable spreadsheets are currently available for geographical areas including Census Collection District, Statistical Local Area (SLA), Local Government Area and Postal Area. In 2006, SEIFA indexes have not been created for larger geographical areas, such as State, Statistical Division and Statistical Sub-Division. Instead, an interactive spreadsheet is available that shows the distribution of SEIFA scores within these areas. This spreadsheet shows the distribution of people who are usual residents on Census night. For each larger area, the spreadsheet includes both tabular and graphical information for each of the four indexes.

Areas of most advantage and disadvantage

In the following tables, the Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage was used to rank the ten most disadvantaged and the ten most advantaged SLAs in Australia. In 2006, the most disadvantaged SLA was Jilkminggan, in the Northern Territory and the most advantaged was Barton in the Australian Capital Territory.

Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage, Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) - Australia: Most disadvantaged SLAs - 2006

| Rank in Australia | Statistical Local Area (SLA) | State | Usual Resident Population |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|
|-------------------|------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|

| | | | |
|----|---------------------|-----|-------|
| 1 | Jilkminggan | NT | 273 |
| 2 | Belyuen | NT | 173 |
| 3 | Yarrabah | QLD | 2 372 |
| 4 | Palm Island | QLD | 1 982 |
| 5 | Walangeri Ngumpinku | NT | 463 |
| 6 | East Arnhem - Bal | NT | 6 522 |
| 7 | Kowanyama | QLD | 1 020 |
| 8 | Napranum | QLD | 840 |
| 9 | Daguragu | NT | 543 |
| 10 | Marngarr | NT | 275 |

Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage, Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) - Australia: Most advantaged SLAs - 2006

| Rank in Australia | Statistical Local Area (SLA) | State | Usual Resident Population |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Barton | ACT | 940 |
| 2 | Forrest | ACT | 1 191 |
| 3 | Ku-ring-gai | NSW | 101 084 |
| 4 | O'Malley | ACT | 685 |
| 5 | Pullenvale | QLD | 3 153 |
| 6 | Fig Tree Pocket | QLD | 3 259 |
| 7 | Mosman | NSW | 26 236 |
| 8 | Chapman | ACT | 2 693 |
| 9 | Peppermint Grove | WA | 1 582 |
| 10 | Woollahra | NSW | 50 162 |

Further information

For further information and to view the indexes, refer to the [ABS SEIFA: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas](#) page, [Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas \(SEIFA\) - Data Only, 2006](#) (cat. no. 2033.0.55.001), [Information Paper: An Introduction to Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas \(SEIFA\), 2006](#) (cat. no. 2039.0), and [Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas \(SEIFA\) - Technical Paper, 2006](#) (cat. no. 2039.0.55.001).

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EXPLORE YOUR CITY THROUGH THE 2006 CENSUS SOCIAL ATLAS SERIES

The 2006 Census of Population and Housing provides a 'snapshot' of Australia which, in addition to counting the population, collects information on the social, economic and housing characteristics of Australian society.

The [Social Atlas series](#) (cat. no. 2030.1 to 8) provides colour thematic maps of Census data, as well as commentary describing the 2006 Census results. Atlases are available for each capital city, and for the first time, selected regional centres. The maps are easy to interpret as the distribution of the data are represented by different colours and shading.

Social Atlas information

The 2006 Census Social Atlas Series presents information on a wide variety of Census characteristics. Each Atlas contains information on: Population, Cultural Diversity, Education, Labour Force, Income, Families and Households, and Dwellings.

Geographic areas covered

The 2006 Social Atlas series is available for the following cities and regional areas:

- Sydney, Wollongong and the Newcastle-Central Coast region
- Melbourne and Geelong
- Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast
- Adelaide, Mt. Gambier and Whyalla
- Perth-Mandurah, Bunbury and Kalgoorlie

- Hobart, Launceston and the Burnie-Devonport region
- Darwin and Palmerston, Litchfield Shire and Alice Springs
- Canberra and Queanbeyan

To start your search refer to the [2006 Census: Social Atlas Series](#) page.

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INDIGENOUS GEOGRAPHY MAPS AND CENSUS PROFILES

You can now quickly and easily access in the one product, Indigenous geography maps together with some of the 2006 Census information available about the areas being mapped. Published every five years, the [Australian Indigenous Geographical Classification Maps and Census Profiles, 2006](#) (cat. no. 4706.0.30.001) were released on 26 May 2008.

Indigenous maps

The maps provide a visual representation of the geographic levels in the Australian Indigenous Geographical Classification (AIGC), which comprise Indigenous Regions, Indigenous Areas, and Indigenous Locations. Maps are provided in Adobe Acrobat format, for each Indigenous Region and where necessary multiple maps are included to provide more detail.

Indigenous profiles

The Indigenous Profiles from the 2006 Census, show key characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians for each Indigenous Region and Indigenous Area.

Australian Indigenous Geographical Classification

The Australian Indigenous Geographical Classification (AIGC) provides a geographic standard for the publication of statistics about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. The Classification and its structure are incorporated into this product as well as a number of geographic concordance tables.

Australian Indigenous Geographical Classification Maps and Census Profiles are available in CD-ROM format. For further information or to order this product contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

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WORKING POPULATION PROFILE

If you are interested in information on the characteristics of people who are employed in your area or to compare those in different geographic areas, the [Census of Population and Housing: Working Population Profile, 2006](#) provides this information. The Working Population Profile (WPP), released on the ABS website on 29 February 2008, is the sixth and final release in the Community Profile Series.

The data can easily be accessed by selecting a location such as a place name, street address, postcode, suburb, type of location or state or territory. An interactive map is also provided that enables you to drill down from the Australia level to your area of interest.

Available data

The Working Population Profile is available for most areas and comprises 22 tables containing key Census characteristics of employed persons. The range of available data includes:

- how many people work full time or part-time
- income
- number of hours worked
- the type of industry and occupation
- the method of travel to work

- employment by country of birth, year of arrival, and by proficiency in spoken English
- student workers aged 15-25 years

To access the tables refer to the [Community Profiles Series](#)

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MESH BLOCKS

The ABS has developed Mesh Blocks as a new micro-level geographical unit for statistics. They have been designed to be small enough to aggregate accurately to a wide range of spatial units and thus enable a ready comparison of statistics between geographical areas, and large enough to protect against accidental disclosure. There are 314,369 spatial Mesh Blocks covering Australia with most residential Mesh Blocks containing approximately 30 to 60 dwellings.

Experimental Mesh Blocks from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing are now available from the [Mesh Blocks Digital Boundaries, Australia, 2006](#) (cat. 1209.0.55.002). They contain basic 2006 Census data (total usual resident population and dwelling count) for each Mesh Block.

This 2006 release of Mesh Blocks is experimental and boundaries will be reviewed and revised in preparation for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. The existing Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) is currently under review with the primary aim to simplify and stabilise the classification. The proposed new Australian Statistical Geography will be built up from Mesh Blocks and be composed of a hierarchy of geographical units that will fulfil all the functionality of the present ASGC. For example, it is anticipated that the Census Collection District will be replaced by a similar sized unit expected to be called a Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1). Details of the review and a proposal to replace the ASGC can be found in the [Information Paper Review of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification](#) (cat. no. 1216.0.55.001).

Information regarding the underlying concepts of Mesh Blocks may be found in the ABS publication [Information Paper: Mesh Blocks, 2003](#) (cat. no. 1209.0) and [Information Paper: Draft Mesh Blocks, Australia \(Reissue\), 2005](#) (cat. no. 1209.0.55.001).

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OTHER RELEASES

REGIONAL POPULATION GROWTH

The latest regional estimated resident population data were released on 31 March 2008, enabling users to find the latest estimated resident population for their area. Estimates are provided for Local Government Areas (LGAs), Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), Statistical Divisions (SDs), Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs), Statistical Districts and states and territories of Australia, as at 30 June each year, from 2001 to 2007.

The [Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2006-07](#) (cat. no. 3218.0) release comprises web information pages and accompanying data cubes. The web pages include summaries on:

- population change in Australia
- summary of findings for each state and territory, and
- LGA populations for each state and territory

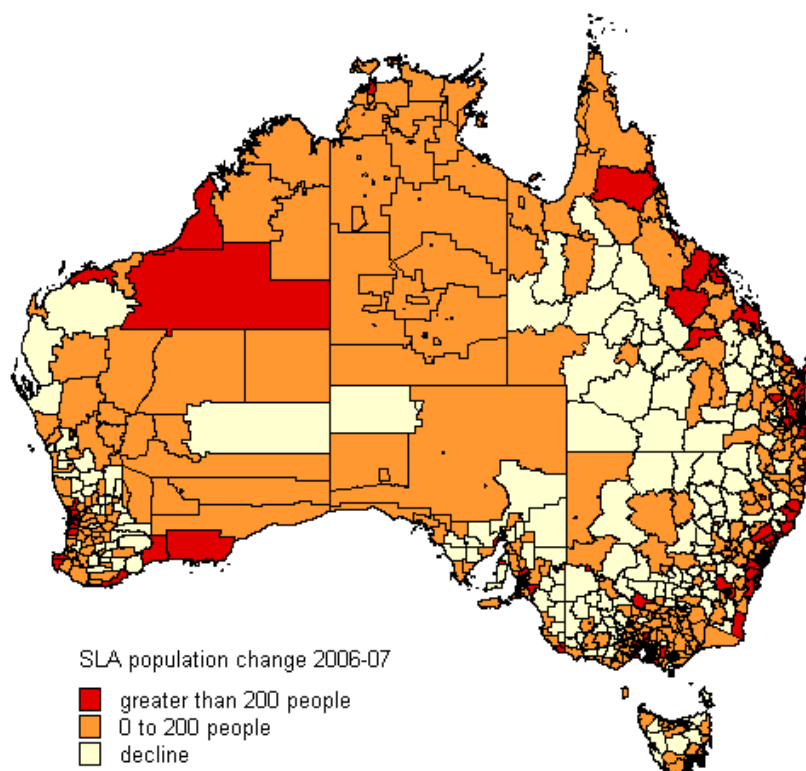
The majority of the text in this product focuses on changes at the LGA level. Selected SLAs are referred to in some of the text and tables, particularly where Local Government Areas cover multiple SLAs, such as Brisbane (C) and Darwin (C), and in unincorporated areas within the Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory.

The total population of the Other Territories, namely Jervis Bay Territory, Territory of Christmas Island, Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Off-Shore Areas and Migratory, is included in all references to the total population of Australia. However, the Other Territories are excluded from commentary about the states and territories of Australia.

Changes to regional populations since 2006

The following map depicts the SLA population change from 2006 to 2007 for Australia. Red coloured SLAs indicate population growth greater than 200 people whilst yellow coloured SLAs indicate a decline in population. In 2006-07, the areas with the largest or fastest population growth in each state and territory tended to be outer suburbs, inner areas of capital cities and some coastal areas. Australia's estimated resident population (ERP) passed the 21 million mark in 2006-07, with an increase of 315,700 people since June 2006. This represents an annual growth rate of 1.5%, which was higher than the average annual growth rate of 1.4% since June 2002.

SLA POPULATION CHANGE, Australia - 2006-07



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POPULATION CONCEPTS

The [Information Paper: Population Concepts, 2008](#) (cat. no. 3107.0.55.006) released on 12 March 2008, identifies and considers the concept on which populations are measured. While population can be simply defined as e.g. 'the total number of persons inhabiting a country, town or any district or area' (Macquarie Dictionary, 2005) the concepts associated with its measurement are increasingly complex. Population estimates are important as they are one of the major outputs of any National Statistical Office and are key statistics for a wide range of planning and policy decisions.

In the Australian context the key population measure is the estimated resident population (ERP) which is based on the concept of usual residence. However there are a range of other population concepts that are relevant to different analytical situations. These can include the population in a particular area at a particular time, or, while not entirely consistent with the above definition, it can extend to the concept of the population serviced by a particular area.

Objectives of this paper

The objectives of this paper are to discuss the range of population concepts, highlight their differences and identify some of the measurement issues associated with the different concepts. The following population concepts have been identified and considered:

- Population present - based on where people are at a particular point in time i.e. place of enumeration
- Usually resident population - based on where people are usually resident using a range of criteria

- Legal population - based on citizenship and residency permits
- Economic population - based on economic concept of residence
- Working population - based on place of employment
- Service populations - based on demand for and use of services in a particular area

Contribute to the discussion

The ABS is interested in discussing with stakeholders the need for these types of estimates, their application in policy and program formulation, monitoring and decision making and related matters, to help formulate future directions in this statistical field. The ABS would welcome any comments on the matters discussed in this information paper. For further information on how to submit comments and to view the paper refer to the [Information Paper: Population Concepts, 2008](#) (cat. no. 3107.0.55.006).

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FORTHCOMING RELEASES

PERSPECTIVES ON REGIONAL AUSTRALIA: POPULATION TURNOVER, 2006

A new publication, Perspectives on Regional Australia: Population Turnover, 2006 (cat. no. 1380.0.55.005) will present data on the extent of population turnover between August 2001 and August 2006 in selected Statistical Local Areas across Australia. Utilising the 2006 Census of Population and Housing data, the publication is due for release on 30 September 2008.

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Industry



INDUSTRY

RECENT RELEASES

[**Tourism Accommodation: Latest Small Area Data**](#)

[**Agricultural Census: 2005-06 Data Now Available**](#)

FORTHCOMING RELEASES

[**Agricultural Commodities: Small Area Data, 2006-07**](#)

[**Agricultural State Profiles**](#)

[**Tourism Regions Maps and Concordances: 2007**](#)

TOURISM ACCOMMODATION: LATEST SMALL AREA DATA

The results of the December 2007 quarter survey of Tourist Accommodation were released on 9 April 2008. This release provides information on the supply of, and demand for, tourist accommodation facilities and includes data for each state and territory, as well as for small areas and Tourism regions, as defined by the respective state/territory Tourism Commissions.

Tourist Accommodation data are available on:

- licensed hotels and resorts
- motels, private hotels and guest houses

- serviced apartments
- caravan parks
- holiday flats, units and houses of letting entities and
- visitor hostels

The type of information that is available includes:

- number of establishments
- available rooms and occupancy rates
- number of persons employed
- takings from accommodation
- average takings
- average length of stay

For further information refer to the Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Dec 2007 for each state (from cat. no. 8635.1.55.001 for [New South Wales](#) to cat. no. 8635.8.55.001 for the [Australian Capital Territory](#)). Data at the national level are available in [Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Australia - Electronic Delivery, Dec 2007](#) (cat. no. 8635.0.55.002).

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AGRICULTURAL CENSUS: 2005-06 DATA NOW AVAILABLE

Final commodity and livestock estimates from the 2005-06 Agricultural Census as well as additional data on land management are presented in [Agricultural Commodities: Small Area Data, Australia, 2005-06](#) (cat. no. 7125.0), released on 7 March 2008. The land management data included in 2005-06 are on tree planting and on fencing for the protection of tracts of land from grazing.

This electronic product enables users to compare agricultural commodities across small geographic areas within each state. All collected data in 2005-06 are published at Natural Resource Management and Statistical Division level and selected commodity and livestock data are published at Statistical Local Area level.

Data are available on:

- Land ownership and use
- Pastures and broadacre crops
- Horticulture
- Livestock
- Tree planting
- Fencing

Note: Not all commodities are collected in each state. Rather, commodities appropriate to agriculture in each state are collected. For example, data for tropical and sub-tropical fruit are collected in the northern states, such as Queensland, while data for temperate fruit are collected in the southern states such as Tasmania.

Final estimates at national and state levels can be found in [Agricultural Commodities, Australia 2005-06](#) (cat. no. 7121.0). This publication was supplemented on 28 March 2008 with additional datacubes containing agricultural commodities data for 2005-06 at the Drainage Division, River Basin and Murray-Darling Basin levels. 2006-07 estimates were released on 28 May 2008.

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FORTHCOMING RELEASES

[Agricultural Commodities: Small Area Data, 2006-07](#)

[Agricultural State Profiles](#)

[Tourism Regions Maps and Concordances: 2007](#)

Agricultural Commodities: Small Area Data, 2006-07

The [Agricultural Commodities: Small Area Data, 2006-07](#) (cat. no. 7125.0) publication is scheduled for release on 6 June 2008. This electronic product enables the comparison of agricultural commodities across small geographic areas within each state. It contains annual estimates for all commodities for Statistical Divisions and five-yearly Agricultural Census data for selected commodities for Statistical Local Areas.

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AGRICULTURAL STATE PROFILES

Over the next few months a number of Agricultural State Profiles will be released from the 2005-06 data. The profiles will provide an overview of the agricultural industry in a particular state and provide farm numbers, agricultural production and the state's agricultural contribution to the economy. Some data will be provided at the Statistical Division level. Profiles scheduled for release in the next three months include:

[Agricultural State Profile, New South Wales](#) (cat. no. 7123.1.55.001) due for release: 8 August 2008

[Agricultural State Profile, Victoria](#) (cat. no. 7123.2.55.001) due for release: 22 August 2008

[Agricultural State Profile, Queensland](#) (cat. no. 7123.3.55.001) due for release: 12 September 2008

[Agricultural State Profile, South Australia](#) (cat. no. 7123.4.55.001) due for release: 23 September 2008

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TOURISM REGIONS MAPS AND CONCORDANCES: 2007

The ABS and other organisations publish tourism data by Tourism Regions. The [Tourism Region Maps and Concordance Files, Australia, 2007](#) (cat. no. 9503.0.55.001), due for release on 26 June 2008, provide maps and concordance files for Tourism Regions for each state and the Northern Territory. The concordance files provide Tourism Region names and their corresponding Statistical Local Area names and codes.

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Environment and energy



ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

RECENT RELEASE

[Water Use on Australian Farms](#)

FORTHCOMING RELEASE

[Natural Resource Management on Australian Farms, 2006-07](#)

WATER USE ON AUSTRALIAN FARMS

A quarter of all irrigation water in 2005-06 was used on pastures! This was one of the findings from the [Water Use on Australian Farms, 2005-06](#) (cat. no. 4618.0) publication released on 13 March 2008.

This publication and associated tables present final estimates of agricultural water use, pastures and crops irrigated, and sources of water used for agriculture at a national, state/territory and regional level, with the Murray-Darling Basin treated as a distinct geographical region for the first time in this series. Information from the Bureau of Meteorology outlining climatic conditions over key agricultural areas between July 2005 and June 2006 are also presented, as climatic conditions affect both the availability of water for irrigation and

the need to irrigate in order to supplement rainfall.

Additional data tables presenting data at finer geographies than those previously published were released on 28 March 2008. These provide a summary of irrigation water use for Statistical Local Areas and River Basins. Data on major pastures and crops irrigated are presented for Statistical Divisions, Natural Resource Management regions, as well as data for the Murray-Darling Basin by each state.

Key findings from the 2005-06 data

- In 2005-06, Australian agricultural businesses used 11,689 gigalitres of water for agricultural production.
- Of this, 10,737 gigalitres (91.9%) was used for the irrigation of pastures and crops.
- The total volume of water applied to grazing pastures was 2,888 gigalitres - using an average rate of 3.5 megalitres per hectare.
- Cotton was the next biggest user of irrigation water, using 16% of water used on crops and pastures, at an average of 6.4 megalitres per hectare.
- Rice used 12% of water used on crops and pastures and was the highest user per hectare, at almost double the rate of cotton.
- Surface water is still the major source of water used by agriculture in most states and territories, accounting for 77% of all water used.
- Almost two thirds of irrigated land in Australia was in the Murray-Darling Basin.

More details are available in [Water Use on Australian Farms 2005-06](#) (cat. no. 4618.0).

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FORTHCOMING RELEASE

[Natural Resource Management on Australian Farms, 2006-07](#) (cat. no. 4620.0) is due for release on 25 June 2008. This publication and accompanying tables will present data on natural resource management issues, activities and costs on Australian Farms. It will include data on weeds, pests, land and soil, native vegetation and water. Data will be presented at the Australian, state and regional (Natural Resource Management region) levels.

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Other news and contacts



OTHER NEWS AND CONTACTS

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HELP FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON THE ABS WEBSITE

Local Government users of the ABS website can now access information designed to help find data and other resources of interest to Local Government.

Called 'Services We Provide to Local Government', these new information pages include:

- How to find data for Local Government Areas
- How to keep informed about ABS releases and developments, and
- Information about resources and services available to help you use data.

The pages include ABS releases that contain data at Local Government Area level, and information about ABS training available to Local Government clients.

Find these new pages by clicking on this link [Services We Provide to Local Government](#), or go to the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au> and on the Home Page, click on '[Services We Provide](#)', then follow the link to 'Local Government'.

'Services We Provide to Local Government' is the latest in a series of help pages aimed at assisting ABS clients. Other 'Services We Provide' pages on the ABS website include: State/Territory Government, Small Business, and Universities.

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STATE AND REGIONAL INDICATORS, TASMANIA

[Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators](#) (cat. no. 1307.6) is a quarterly electronic release comprising a compendium of summary statistical information about Tasmania.

Topics covered include labour force, wages and prices, tourism, finance, state accounts, population, household and family characteristics, education, health and environment. Some non-ABS and regional data are also included.

The March 2008 release included two feature articles on 'Ageing in Tasmania, 2006' and 'Tasmanian Housing Indicators'. The web pages present information by topic, with more detailed data in Excel spreadsheets. Summary commentary, tables, maps and graphs are also included. This publication replaces [Statistics, Tasmania](#) (cat. no. 1384.6) and [Regional Statistics, Tasmania](#) (cat. no. 1362.6).

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STATE AND REGIONAL INDICATORS, VICTORIA

[State and Regional Indicators, Victoria](#) (cat. no. 1367.2) is a quarterly publication that contains recently released statistical information about the whole of Victoria. Data are sourced from ABS and non-ABS collections. It provides measures according to a triple bottom line of economic, social and environment elements. The aim of the publication is to provide a picture of the situation of Victoria and enable comparison, both over time and between regions.

Most chapters contain a mix of tables, charts and commentary, to provide a basic analysis of recent movements in key economic, social and environmental data. Data are presented for varying geographic classifications, including, Victoria; Melbourne and the Balance of Victoria; down to Local Government Area for some series.

Core data, such as Estimated Resident Population, State Final Demand, Labour Force Statistics, Price

Indexes, Building Approvals, Air Quality, and Water Storage Volumes is complemented by periodic annual data including the Condition of Main Roads, Recorded Crime Offences, Life Expectancy at Birth, Government Owned Housing Stock and others. Web pages are updated as data becomes available.

State and Regional Indicators, Victoria (cat. no. 1367.2), March 2008 issue was released 15 May 2008.

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NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL REGIONS

In mid 2005, the Northern Territory (NT) Government introduced the NT Government Statistical Regions to ensure that statistical information compiled by the NT Government was collected on a geographically consistent and statistically comparable basis between NT Government agencies. The new NT Government Statistical Regions are the statistical boundaries by which all NT Government Departments report. Five regions were created, comprising 23 sub-regions in total. These regions were created with ABS input, enabling the NT Government Statistical Regions and sub-regions to match regional geographies in the 2006 Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). This will enable users to compare data across the various geographies and across government departments.

The table below outlines the NT Government Regions, NT Government Sub-regions and their match with the 2006 ASGC Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs).

NT Government Statistical Regions, Sub-regions and ASGC SSDs

| NT Government regions | NT Government Sub-Regions | Matching 2006 ASGC SSD's |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Darwin | Tiwi | Bathurst Melville |
| | Litchfield | Litchfield Shire |
| | Litchfield | Litchfield Shire |
| | Alligator | Alligator |
| | Alligator | Alligator |
| | Finniss | Finniss |
| | Finniss | Finniss |
| | Finniss | Finniss |
| | Finniss | Finniss |
| | Darwin | Darwin |
| | Palmerston | Palmerston-East Arm |
| | Daly | Daly |
| | Daly | Daly |
| | Daly | Daly |
| | West Arnhem | Alligator |
| | West Arnhem | Alligator |
| East Arnhem | Nhulunbuy | East Arnhem |
| | North Miwatj | East Arnhem |
| | North Miwatj | East Arnhem |
| | South Miwatj | East Arnhem |
| | South Miwatj | East Arnhem |
| | South Miwatj | East Arnhem |
| Katherine | Katherine | Lower Top End NT |
| | Elsey | Lower Top End NT |
| | Elsey | Lower Top End NT |
| | Elsey | Lower Top End NT |
| | Elsey | Lower Top End NT |
| | Elsey | Lower Top End NT |
| | Elsey | Lower Top End NT |
| | Elsey | Lower Top End NT |
| | Gulf | Lower Top End NT |
| | Gulf | Lower Top End NT |
| | Gulf | Lower Top End NT |
| | Victoria River | Lower Top End NT |
| | Victoria River | Lower Top End NT |
| | Victoria River | Lower Top End NT |
| | Victoria River | Lower Top End NT |
| Barkly | Tennant Creek | Barkly |
| | Barkly North | Barkly |
| | Barkly North | Barkly |
| | Barkley South | Barkly |
| | Barkley South | Barkly |
| Alice Springs | Alice Springs | Central NT |
| | Alice Springs | Central NT |

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Alice Springs | Central NT |
| Alice Springs | Central NT |
| Alice Springs | Central NT |
| Hanson | Central NT |
| Hanson | Central NT |
| Petermann-Simpson | Central NT |
| Sandover Plenty | Central NT |
| Sandover Plenty | Central NT |
| Sandover Plenty | Central NT |
| Sandover Plenty | Central NT |
| Tanami | Central NT |
| Tanami | Central NT |
| Tanami | Central NT |
| Tanami | Central NT |

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NEW SOUTH WALES IN FOCUS

New South Wales in Focus, 2008 (cat. no. 1338.1) is an annual publication providing extensive information about the people, economy and environment of NSW. The statistical coverage includes subjects such as population, education and training, health, housing, crime and justice, labour force, income and expenditure, service provision, community involvement and the environment. There are also data on the various industries supplying goods and services to the Australian economy, such as agriculture, manufacturing, mining, energy, construction, transport, communication and information technology, retail and wholesale trade, tourism, personal and business services. The publication is due for release on 13 June 2008. Prior to this date the link above will take you to the previous release.

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NATSTATS CONFERENCE - NOVEMBER 2008

The inaugural NatStats08 Conference will be held on 19-21 November 2008 in Melbourne. NatStats08 is a National Statistical Service (NSS) initiative which aims to bring together decision makers from across the Nation to address a range of issues regarding national statistics. NatStats08 gives the opportunity to meet with a wide range of people involved in the production and use of the official data that informs and shapes a great deal of public and private policy and investment decisions across Australia.

This is a particularly important time in the evolution of the national statistical infrastructure, as the many data custodians and producers of official statistical data seek to support the greater emphasis being placed by governments on both the importance of clearly defined outcomes for publicly funded initiatives, and of establishing quantifiable measures to assess progress in achieving these outcomes.

The conference provides a unique opportunity for all users and producers of statistics to be involved in improving statistics for the nation.

For further information on NatStats08 visit the conference website at www.nss.gov.au/natstats/natstatshome.nsf

If you would like to register your interest in the conference please contact Conference Solutions on natstats@con-sol.com

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ABOUT US / CONTACT US

'What's New in Regional Statistics' is produced by the Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre of the ABS. This newsletter has been prepared as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Regional Statistics Program, to improve the availability of regional and small area data by leading the development of regional statistics and co-ordinating their dissemination. More information is available on the [ABS Regional Statistics theme page](#).

Please send your comments or queries regarding this newsletter to regional.statistics@abs.gov.au.

If you would like further information or data, please contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or e-mail client.services@abs.gov.au.

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This services also enables you to find out what you have subscribed to, and to cancel or modify your subscription.

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About this Release

Cat. 1386.0 is the new catalogue number for 'What's New in Regional Statistics' replacing Cat. 1379.0. The new catalogue number applies to the second issue of this publication (released 5/12/07) and all subsequent releases.

What's New in Regional Statistics' is a biannual newsletter about regional and small area statistics. It includes topical articles and reviews of relevant ABS publications. 'What's New in Regional Statistics' highlights developments in statistics relevant to regions, including metropolitan, urban, non-urban and rural

areas, and other information of likely interest to researchers, policy makers and other users of small area data.

Interested readers are invited to visit the Regional theme page on the ABS website for links to other related information.

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